Application No. 10/702,096

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are currently pending. In response to the restriction requirement, claims 1-8 and 16-33 are pending. Applicant requests that claims 9-15 and 34-52 be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in a continuation or divisional application.

The Examiner indicated that Applicant must elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Applicant elects species (II) without traverse. Species (II) corresponds to claims 1-8 and 16-33. Applicant reserves the right to re-present the withdrawn claims directed to the non-elected species upon the allowance of a generic claim in this application. Applicant submits that the independent claims 1, 16 and 24 are generic, because they do not contain language specifically directed to the species identified in the office action.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy J. Cusick

Registration No. 52,788

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A. 4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100

Telephone: (612) 349-3019